EXCISE

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RP-10 ACDA-12 SP-02 SR-04 SPRS-02 /130 W
121311 061150Z /43

R 061027Z MAY 81
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8254
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
CIA WASHDC
WHITE HOUSE NSC
DIA WASHINGTON DC//
SECDEF WASHDC
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
COMIPAC HONOLULU HI
FICPAC PEARL HARBOR HI
RUMUAAA/13AF CLARK AB RP
FSTC INTEL OPS CHARLOTTESVILLE VA
CHIEF OF STAFF ARMY WASHDC
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UDORN POUCH
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PARIS FOR BIGELOW
CINCPAC FOR POLAD AND J233
DIA FOR DC-4B
CIA FOR NFAC
CSA FOR DAMI-ISH
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY J. Hewes DATE 8/31/82
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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FSTC FOR DRXST-FMO AND IS1
CDRAARADCON FIR DRDAR-SE1C
EO 12065: RDS-4: 05/06/01 (ABRAMOWITZ, MORTON I.) OR-M
TAGS: SHUM, PORG, MMOL, SREF, PEPR, LA, VM
SUBJ: CHEMICAL WEAPONS USE IN LAOS REPORTED:
JANUARY 8 - APRIL 2
REF: BANGKOK 20562
1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT.)
2. SUMMARY: [redacted] B1A9
[redacted] HAS PROVIDED NOTES OF INTERVIEWS WITH AN ALLEGED WITNESS TO POISON GAS ATTACKS IN LAOS. THE HMONG REFUGEE REPORTS ON FOUR ATTACKS IN THE JANUARY 11 - APRIL 2 PERIOD, ALLEGING A TOTAL OF 106 DEATHS AT THREE SITES. THE SITES ARE WITHIN 24 KILOMETERS OF EACH OTHER, LOCATED SOUTHEAST OF PHU BIA AND NORTHWEST OF VIENTIANE. ALL

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ALLEGED DELIVERY WAS BY AIRCRAFT, INCLUDING MIG 17'S, A BIPLANE AND A HELICOPTER. THE RANGE OF SYMPTOMS EFFECTING HUMANS IS SIMILAR TO PREVIOUS REPORTING. THE ALLEGED SUBSTANCE, A BROWN-YELLOW STICKY MATERIAL, HAD LIMITED DEFOLIANT EFFECT OVER SEVERAL WEEKS TIME. [redacted] B1A9
NOTES ARE BEING POUCHED TO EA/VLK.
END SUMMARY.
3. [redacted] B1A9
HAS PROVIDED NOTES OF INTERVIEW WITH A HMONG REFUGEE WHO CLAIMS TO HAVE WITNESSED THREE OF THE FOLLOWING FOUR INCIDENTS (TWO OF WHICH OCCURRED WITHIN THE SAME VILLAGE 11 DAYS APART). SITES ARE WITHIN A 12 KILOMETER RADIUS. HMONG SOURCE ALSO PROVIDED RESIDUE SAMPLE "A" AND ACCOMPANYING REPORT.
4. INCIDENT JANUARY 8, 1981: SOURCE CLAIMED AT APPROXIMATELY 1300 HOURS A MIG 17 MADE A SINGLE NORTH TO SOUTH PASS AT APPROXIMATELY 6,600 FEET OVER A HMONG VILLAGE LOCATED AT (TF9963). A STICKY YELLOW CHEMICAL APPEARED ON THE GROUND APPROXIMATELY TWO HOURS AFTER THE ATTACK. WITHIN 24 HOURS, 24 OF THE 280 PEOPLE IN THE VILLAGE BECAME ILL SUFFERING BLOODY DIARRHEA, AND SUBSEQUENTLY BLISTERS PLUS "SPOTS" OF ERYTHEMA. OTHER SYMPTOMS INCLUDED HEADACHE, DYSPEPSIA, EDEMA OF THE EYELIDS, BLURRED VISION AND THOUGHT PROCESSES,

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THICK SPUTA, PULSE INCREASE, A "HOT BODY"
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SENSATION, INCREASED SWEATING, MILD ERYTHEMA
OF SKIN AND FITFULNESS OF SLEEP FOR APPROXI-
MATELY 24 HOURS. VICTIMS WERE TREATED WITH
OPIUM. THERE WERE REPORTEDLY NO DEATHS.
5. INCIDENT MARCH 11, 1981: SOURCE CLAIMED A

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CAMOUFLAGED HELICOPTER, APPEARING TO BE A LENGTHENED SINGLE ROTOR BELL TYPE MADE A SINGLE EAST TO WEST PASS AT APPROXIMATELY 4,000 FEET ABOVE A HMONG VILLAGE WITH A POPULATION OF APPROXIMATELY 1,000 LOCATED (TF7973). WITHIN AN HOUR OF THE PASS,VILLAGERS NOTED A BROWN-YELLOW STICKY SUBSTANCE ON VEGETATION WHICH HAD AN ODOR OF RUBBED BAMBOO. WITHIN 24 HOURS MANY VILLAGERS BECAME ILL SUFFERING FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS: SKIN HAD A COOL SENSATION WHICH GAVE WAY TO AN INTENSE ITCHING: EYELIDS SWELLED AND BURNED WITH MUCH TEARING. BY THE END OF ONE WEEK, 61 VILLAGERS WERE SUFFERING FROM NAUSEA, VOMITING AND BLOODY DIARRHEA, THOUGH ALL REPORTEDLY WERE AFEBRILE. WITHIN TWO WEEKS, THESE 61 VILLAGERS WERE DEAD. THE 61 HAD JAUNDICED BEFORE DEATH. SOME HAD COMPLAINED OF BLURRED VISION, CHEST PAIN AND SOME OF HEADACHES. SOURCE WAS ONE DAY'S WALK FROM ATTACK SITE AT THE TIME OF THE ATTACK.

6. INCIDENT MARCH 22, 1981: SOURCE CLAIMED THAT

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A BIPLANE MADE A SINGLE NORTH TO SOUTH PASS AT APPROXIMATELY 4,000 FEET ABOVE A HMONG VILLAGE AT (TF7973) (SAME SITE AS PARA 5). FOLLOWING THE ATTACK 21 PEOPLE DEVELOPED A COUGH WHICH AFTER ONE WEEK LED TO HEMOPTYSIS. AFTER THREE EPISODES OF HEMOPTYSIS THE VICTIMS DIED, ALL WITHIN TWO WEEKS. IN ADDITION THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY 500 CASES OF BLOODY DIARRHEA AND APPROXIMATELY 400 NEW CASES OF SKIN DISEASE IN WHICH THERE WAS BLISTERING. IN THIS ATTACK, AS IN ATTACK REPORTED PARA 5, LEAVES OF TREES AND SHRUBS TOUCHED BY THE CHEMICAL USUALLY BROWNED AND SHRIVELED AND FELL OFF IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS. TAPIOCA PLANTS APPEARED PARTICULARLY SUSCEPTIBLE TO THE CHEMICAL.

7. INCIDENT APRIL 2, 1981: SOURCE CLAIMED A MIG 17 MADE A NORTH TO SOUTH PASS AT AN ALTITUDE OF APPROXIMATELY 10,000 FEET ABOVE A HMONG VILLAGE AT (TF9177). WITHIN ONE TO TWO HOURS VILLAGERS NOTED A YELLOW SUBSTANCE ON VEGETATION IN THE VILLAGE AREA. WITHIN ONE WEEK 24 OF THE VILLAGE'S APPROXIMATELY 450 INHABITANTS DEVELOPED BLOODY DIARRHEA AND DIED WITHIN THREE DAYS POST ONSET OF CONDITION. AN ADDITIONAL 47 VILLAGERS DEVELOPED SKIN BLISTERS AND ITCHING (WHICH PRODUCED SECONDARY INFECTION

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AND NEW BLISTERS). IN ADDITION TO THE TOLL ON HUMANS, SOME PIGS AND CHICKENS IN THE VILLAGE ALSO DIED. AN LPLA/PAVN MILITARY CAMP OF APPROXIMATELY 70 TROOPS WAS LOCATED ABOUT 500 METERS FROM THE VILLAGE. IT IS NOT KNOWN IF

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143453 070533Z /16
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THE ALLEGED CHEMICAL ATTACK AFFECTED ANY OF
THE COMMUNIST TROOPS. HMONG VILLAGERS WERE
NOT ALLOWED TO APPROACH THE SITE NOR WAS ANY
MEDICAL HELP SENT TO THE VILLAGE FROM THE CAMP
FOLLOWING THE ATTACK.
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8. COMMENT: THESE ACCOUNTS ARE SIMILAR TO OTHERS OF ALLEGED CHEMICAL WARFARE ATTACKS AGAINST THE HMONG. THE REPORTED AIRCRAFT ALTITUDE IN THE APRIL 2 INCIDENT (10,000 FEET OR 3 KILOMETERS) WOULD APPEAR TO BE TOO HIGH FOR ACCURATE TARGETING OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS SIMPLY RELEASED FROM THE AIRCRAFT. [redacted] B1A9

END COMMENT. ABRAMOWITZ
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